

Written Testimony in favor of Special Appropriation #23-17

Jerry Kickenson, board of directors and Montgomery County coordinator, [Congregation Action Network](#)

The Congregation Action Network support Special Appropriation #23-17 to the County Government's FY23 Operating Budget for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance.

Faith organizations in Montgomery County, including several members of the Congregation Action Network, have been providing volunteers, funds and resources in support of the migrants bused from Texas and Arizona, as well as refugees and asylum seekers residing in Montgomery County for years. Our congregations and their members have volunteered for the respite center, provided food for migrants temporarily residing in hotels in the county, and provided cold weather and work clothing for migrants choosing to stay in our area. We are happy, indeed blessed, to do so. But the need is great, and is straining our resources.

We thank the County Executive and the Council for recognizing the immediate need for more resources with Special Appropriation #23-17, and urge you to pass it today. We also applaud the inclusion of funding for long-term strategic planning. Montgomery County is home to many thousands of immigrants with differing status and needs. The faith community is eager to work with the County in ensuring our immigrant neighbors can thrive here, so that all of us can thrive.

Thank you.